

Current Listing of Claims

Claims 1-50 (canceled)

51. (Previously presented) A method for determining the risk of tumor recurrence or spread in a patient suffering from prostate cancer, said method comprising:

(a) determining a BAG gene expression level in a cancerous prostate tissue sample from said patient; and

(b) comparing said BAG gene expression level in said patient to a reference BAG gene expression level, said reference BAG gene expression level being a level of BAG gene expression above which correlates with an increased risk of tumor recurrence or spread and below which correlates with a decreased risk of tumor recurrence or spread,

thereby determining the risk of tumor recurrence or spread in said patient.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said tumor spread comprises tumor metastasis.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said BAG gene expression level is determined by measuring a BAG protein level.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said BAG protein level is determined with an antibody specific for BAG protein.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said BAG gene expression level is determined by measuring the level of a nucleic acid which encodes said BAG protein.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein said nucleic acid is DNA.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein said nucleic acid is RNA.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said BAG gene encodes a nuclear BAG protein.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said BAG gene encodes a cytosolic BAG protein.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said BAG gene encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of BAG-1, BAG-1N, BAG-1M and BAG-1L.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said BAG gene expression level is determined using an immunoassay.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein said immunoassay is an immuno-polymerase chain reaction (immuno-PCR) assay.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said reference BAG gene expression level is a level of BAG gene expression above which correlates with increased risk of tumor recurrence or spread in a first group of patients compared to a second group of patients, said second group of patients having BAG gene expression levels below said reference level.

64. (Previously presented) A method for determining a prognosis of survival in a patient suffering from prostate cancer, said method comprising:

(a) determining a BAG gene expression level in a cancerous prostate tissue sample from said patient; and

(b) comparing said BAG gene expression level in said patient to a reference BAG gene expression level, said reference BAG gene expression level being a level of BAG gene expression above which correlates with decreased survival and below which correlates with increased survival,

thereby determining a prognosis of survival in said patient.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said survival is overall survival.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said survival is distant metastasis-free survival.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said BAG gene expression level is determined by measuring a BAG protein level.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein said BAG protein level is determined with an antibody specific for BAG protein.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said BAG gene expression level is determined by measuring the level of a nucleic acid which encodes said BAG protein.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said nucleic acid is DNA.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said nucleic acid is RNA.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said BAG gene encodes a nuclear BAG protein.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said BAG gene encodes a cytosolic BAG protein.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said BAG gene encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of BAG-1, BAG-1N, BAG-1M and BAG-1L.

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said BAG gene expression level is determined using an immunoassay.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein said immunoassay is an immuno-polymerase chain reaction (immuno-PCR) assay.

77. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said reference BAG gene expression level is a level of BAG gene expression above which correlates with decreased survival in a first group of patients compared to a second group of patients, said second group of patients having BAG gene expression levels below said reference level.

78. (Previously presented) A method for monitoring the effectiveness of a course of treatment for a patient suffering from prostate cancer, said method comprising:

(a) determining a first BAG gene expression level in a cancerous prostate tissue from said patient prior to said treatment; and

(b) subsequently determining a second BAG gene expression level in a cancerous prostate tissue from said patient during said treatment, whereby a decreased second BAG expression level compared to said first BAG expression level indicates an effective treatment.

79. (Previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said BAG gene expression level is determined by measuring a BAG protein level.

80. (Previously presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said BAG protein level is determined with an antibody specific for BAG protein.

81. (Previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said BAG gene expression level is determined by measuring the level of a nucleic acid which encodes said BAG protein.

82. (Previously presented) The method of claim 81, wherein said nucleic acid is DNA.

83. (Previously presented) The method of claim 81, wherein said nucleic acid is RNA.

84. (Previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said BAG gene encodes a nuclear BAG protein.

85. (Previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said BAG gene encodes a cytosolic BAG protein.

86. (Previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said BAG gene encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of BAG-1, BAG-1N, BAG-1M and BAG-1L.

87. (Previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said BAG gene expression level is determined using an immunoassay.

88. (Previously presented) The method of claim 87, wherein said immunoassay is an immuno-polymerase chain reaction (immuno-PCR) assay.